

Remarks

Upon review of the application, minor typographical errors have been noted and corrected.

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to as not being in narrative form. Accordingly, a replacement abstract in narrative form is hereby submitted.

The drawings have been objected under 37 C.F.R. 1.830(a) because the Examiner contends that they do not show the positioning means as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the recitation of the positioning means has been deleted from the amended claims and no drawing corrections are therefore required.

Claim 4 has been objected to because of an informality which has been corrected to recite "approximately" rather than the abbreviation therefore.

Claims 13-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the phrase "plug-like". Accordingly, claim 13 has been amended to recite a plug which is clearly shown in the figures and described in the specification.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Muller et al (U.S. Patent 6,309,566). Applicant hereby submits an English language translation of the foreign application along with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate in order to overcome the date of the Muller et al reference as provided in 37 C.F.R. 1.55(4). Since the applicant has complied with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.55(4) and the date of the Muller et al patent is later than the filing date of the priority document in the present application, this rejection is respectfully overcome.

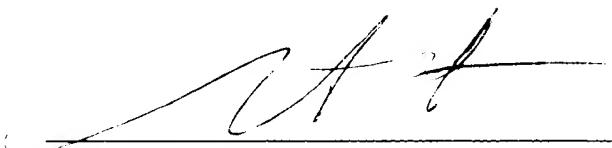
Claim 1 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Musk (U.S. Patent 5,094,518). Claim 1 has been cancelled and therefore this rejection is now moot.

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-6 and 13-16. Accordingly, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Similarly, claims 13-16 have been rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 second paragraph as set forth above and are therefore in condition for allowance.

New claims 17-25 are submitted for examination and are believed to be patentable because the references of record do not teach nor suggest introducing a closure member into a coupling portion of a mold and introducing a carrier of an optical transducer through a mold opening, thereby filling the moldable material into the mold to substantially surround the optical component and to form an optical window proximate the opening, aligning the carrier in the mold and curing the moldable material and removing the closure member.

If the Examiner cares to discuss anything presented here in order to further prosecution of the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants.

Respectfully submitted,



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